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# PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

## MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

### Programme 24. Statistics

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 24, Statistics, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions update the narrative to reflect changes resulting from the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the current restructuring of the Secretariat. Owing to the biennial calendar of meetings of the Statistical Commission, those revisions were not reviewed by the Commission in 1992.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

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4. The following text modifies paragraphs 24.6 to 24.11, 24.13, 24.15 to 24.17, 24.19, 24.20, 24.29, 24.35, 24.37 to 24.40, 24.42 to 24.44 and 24.49 of A/45/6/Rev. 1. In addition, three new paragraphs are added under subprogrammes 1, 4 and 5.

5. It is proposed to replace references to the "Statistical Office" throughout the narrative of the programme with references to the "Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs".

## A. Programme

**Paragraph 24.6** After the fifth sentence, add a new sentence as follows: "The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized that the gap in the availability, quality, coherence, standardization and accessibility of data between the developed and the developing world has been increasing, seriously impairing the capacities of countries to make informed decisions concerning environment and development."

**Paragraph 24.7** In the first sentence, delete "and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat."

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence as follows: "The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in its Agenda 21, recommended that the Secretariat through the Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, would promote integrated environmental and social accounting and related data collection by all Member States and provide assistance to them through training."

**Paragraph 24.8** In the first sentence, delete "of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, with substantive support from the Statistical Office and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs".

**Paragraph 24.9** In the first sentence, replace "Statistical Office provides a wide range of services and outputs to users and producers of statistics in other units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, and" with "Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development provides a wide range of services and outputs to users and producers of statistics in".

Paragraph 24.10 — After the fourth sentence, add a new sentence as follows: "For example, the all-pervading theme of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has been sustainable development focusing on the integration of environment and development."

In the seventh sentence, delete "and CMEA".

Paragraph 24.11 — In the title of subprogramme 5, delete "(Department of Technical Cooperation for Development)".

## B. Subprogrammes

### SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPING STATISTICAL CONCEPTS AND METHODS FOR USE BY MEMBER STATES

Paragraph 24.13 — Add a reference to Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, chapters 8 (programme D) and 40 (programme A).

Paragraph 24.15 — Delete the fourth sentence.

Replace the seventh, eighth and ninth sentences with the following: "There will be particular emphasis on introducing the SNA in countries currently or formerly using the System of Balances of the National Economy. The work will continue on implementation of a version of SNA that is specifically designed for economies in transition in order to facilitate the conversion from the current system to SNA and to respond to issues that arise in economies in transition in the course of that process."

After paragraph 24.15, insert a new paragraph 24.16 as follows and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"Following the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development will further develop, promote and standardize the concepts and methods proposed by the SNA Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting. It will also pursue the development of indicators of sustainable development in order to promote the increasing use of such indicators in satellite accounts, and eventually in national accounts. In this context, the Statistical Division of the Department will assist the Statistical Commission in assembling and reviewing experience and advising Member States on technical and methodological issues related to the further development and implementation of integrated environmental and economic accounting in Member States."

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| Paragraph 24.16 (new paragraph 24.17) | In the second sentence, after "SNA" insert "revisions to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)." |
| | In the fifth sentence, delete "CMEA and". |
| | In the last sentence, before "software" insert "Hard copy and". |
| Paragraph 24.17 (new paragraph 24.18) | In the second sentence, after "recommendations" insert "and manuals". |
| Paragraph 24.19 (new paragraph 24.20) | In the first sentence, delete "MPS". |
| | In the last sentence, delete "the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations,". |
| Paragraph 24.20 (new paragraph 24.21) | In the last sentence, delete "and from product (value-added) inter-country comparisons". |

SUBPROGRAMME 3. COLLECTING, COMPILING AND DISSEMINATING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

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| Paragraph 24.29 (new paragraph 24.30) | Add a reference to Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, chapter 40 (programme A). |
| Paragraph 24.35 (new paragraph 24.36) | In the second sentence, after "trade data" insert "at national level". |
| | After the second sentence, insert a new sentence as follows: "Joint efforts will be made with other international organizations to improve estimates for non-reported national trade data." |
| | In the fourth sentence, delete "of International Economic and Social Affairs". |
| Paragraph 24.37 (new paragraph 24.38) | In the first sentence, replace "1990" with "1993". |
| | Replace the last sentence with the following: "Harmonization of work on prices among national accounting, consumer price indices and an international comparison programme will be initiated. A few case-studies of the integration of the ICP-related work in the regular national statistical programme will be launched." |
| Paragraph 24.38 (new paragraph 24.39) | In the last sentence, replace "Department of International Economic and Social Affairs" with "Department of Economic and Social Development". |

Paragraph 24.39 (new paragraph 24.40)

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence as follows: "In addition to the strengthening of existing development-related data collection, special attention needs to be paid to such areas as demographic factors, urbanization, poverty, health and rights of access to resources, as well as special groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, children and the disabled, and their relationships with environment issues."

SUBPROGRAMME 4. COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

Paragraph 24.40 (new paragraph 24.41)

Add a reference to Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, chapter 40 (programme A).

Paragraph 24.42 (new paragraph 24.43)

In the last sentence, replace "prepared" with "revised as necessary".

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence as follows: "Inventories of environmental, resource and developmental data, based on national/global priorities for the management of sustainable development will be carried out upon request."

Paragraph 24.43 (new paragraph 24.44)

In the third sentence, replace "for Disarmament" with "of Political".

In the last sentence, after "Activities" insert "and its subsidiary bodies."

After existing paragraph 24.43 (new paragraph 24.44), insert a new paragraph as follows and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly: "As recommended by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, consideration will be given to the modalities for the coordination of the activities related to development data of agencies and institutions of the United Nations system."

SUBPROGRAMME 5. SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL DATA PROCESSING

Paragraph 24.44 (new paragraph 24.46)

Add a reference to Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, chapters 8 (programme D) and 40 (programme A).

Paragraph 24.49 (new paragraph 24.51)

In the first sentence, replace "related statistics" with "environment statistics".

After existing paragraph 24.51 (new paragraph 24.54), insert a new paragraph as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly: "In close cooperation with other international organizations, the Department will coordinate the training of national accountants, environmental statisticians and national technical staff, and will provide appropriate technical support to Member States for establishing integrated accounting. In addition, necessary steps will be taken for strengthening existing mechanisms for technical cooperation among countries, in close collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system."

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